



PRESS RELEASE

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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AUGUST RED MEAT PRODUCTION

WEST VIRGINIA – Commercial red meat production during August 2005 totaled 500,000 pounds. This was down 2 percent from August 2004 but up 105 percent from July 2005 production. Commercial red meat production is the carcass weight after slaughter including beef, veal, pork, and lamb and mutton. Individual commodity production is total live weight of commercial slaughter.

Commercial cattle slaughter totaled 561,000 pounds live weight, up 7 percent from August 2004. Cattle slaughter totaled 500 head, unchanged from the previous year. The average live weight, at 1,090 pounds, was up 98 pounds from a year ago.

Commercial calf slaughter was not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

Commercial hog slaughter totaled 259,000 pounds live weight, down 6 percent from last year. Hog slaughter totaled 1,000 head, down 100 head from the previous year. The average live weight, at 252 pounds, was down 5 pounds from the previous year.

Commercial sheep and lamb slaughter was not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

UNITED STATES -- Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 4.10 billion pounds in August, up 6 percent from the 3.88 billion pounds produced in August 2004.

Beef production, at 2.32 billion pounds, was 8 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.99 million head, up 6 percent from August 2004. The average live weight was up 15 pounds from the previous year, at 1,267 pounds.

Veal production totaled 13.7 million pounds, 2 percent below August a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 65,600 head, down 10 percent from August 2004. The average live weight was 25 pounds above last year, at 347 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.75 billion pounds, up 3 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.98 million head, 3 percent above August 2004. The average live weight was 1 pound above the previous year, at 263 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 15.4 million pounds, was up 1 percent from August 2004. Sheep slaughter totaled 229,300 head, 2 percent below last year. The average live weight was 134 pounds, up 4 pounds from August a year ago.

January to August 2005 commercial red meat production was 30.0 billion pounds, up slightly from 2004. Accumulated beef production was down slightly from last year, veal was down 8 percent, pork was up 1 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 3 percent.

August 2004 contained 22 weekdays (including no holidays) and 4 Saturdays.

August 2005 contained 23 weekdays (including no holidays) and 4 Saturdays.

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